

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (East Prussia)

DATE DISTR. 3 March 1952

SUBJECT Soviet Military Installations in Sovetsk (Tilsit) and Pegegen

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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1. An old barracks installation consisting of 3 four-story barracks buildings, 1 mess building with a clock tower and 3 subsidiary buildings was located about 1 km northwest of the Tilsit (55°04'N/21°40'E) railroad station, on the west side of Friedrichstrasse and the south side of the road to Stolberg about 1 km northwest of Tilsit. In April 1951, troops were seen standing around a tank placed on a base in the barracks yard, apparently being given instruction. The soldiers wore brown uniforms with red epaulets without branch-of-service insignia. No motor vehicles were seen.
 2. Opposite the installation, on the north side of the road to Stolberg, there was a barracks installation which consisted of one four-story building, about 80 meters long, and one somewhat smaller building. The occupation of this installation could not be determined. The installation had quartered police prior to World War II.
 3. The Neue Kaserne, which consisted of 3 four-story buildings, was on the south side of the road to Stolberg, about 100 meters west of the installation mentioned in paragraph 1. It was occupied to capacity by an infantry unit. Between 20 and 25 three-axle trucks and sedans were seen through the gate in the barracks yard behind the buildings. No further details were known. A three-story former school building, about 100 meters west of the Neue Kaserne, on the east side of Flotwellstrasse, also quartered troops.
 4. Another barracks installation, east of the railroad station, on the north side of Bahnhofstrasse, consisted of 1 large four-story building, about 100 meters long, and 3 storage buildings and was occupied to capacity by a tank unit. Soldiers seen in the installa-

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Pogegen.

5. Prior to May 1951, five AA guns of from 80 to 100-mm were emplaced close to the red water tower on Pogegerberg (hill), about 800 meters southwest of the railroad station in Pogegen (55°07'N/21°52'E). The gun crews wore red epaulets and were daily seen practicing with the guns. No firing practice with live ammunition was held from December 1950 to May 1951.
6. Another angular three-story barracks building, located at a road intersection in the vicinity of Pogegen, was occupied by a unit which had about 8 trucks and as many AT guns of 30 to 40-mm. The last recruits for this unit arrived in the spring of 1951, wearing civilian clothes. The installation had been vacant until the summer of 1950.
7. A fuel dump, about 250 meters square, was located in the woods about 1 km north of the Pogegen railroad station, on the north-west side of the railroad line to Taurage (55°14'N/22°15'E). It was refilled about twice a month from 15 to 20 railroad tank cars. Fuel was picked up daily by tank trucks. Guard personnel were quartered in the barracks installation in Pogegen.
8. Young men ranging from 17 to 19 years of age arrived in the Pogegen barracks installation for a two-week period of premilitary training in the summer and fall of 1950. They were issued no uniforms and trained only with wooden rifles. Lithuanians stated that such training was also conducted in other towns.
9. In April 1951, a railroad artillery unit passed through the railroad station of Pogegen, coming from the direction of Tilsit and proceeding toward Memel (55°42'N/21°03'E). The train consisted of 1 locomotive, 4 four-axle flatbed cars, each with one gun of about 200-mm, 4 boxcars for EM, 1 coach for officers, and 1 kitchen car. During a firing practice, the gun-mounting flatbed cars were braced by special guy lines. In the summer of 1950, such trains were repeatedly observed on the railroad line between Insterburg (54°36'N/39°25'E) and Koenigsberg (54°41'N/38°07'E).
10. About 100 used 60-ton boxcars were side-tracked at the Pogegen railroad station in the fall of 1950, and an additional 100 new boxcars with Polish inscriptions in March or April 1951. These boxcars remained there until May 1951. The walls of the boxcars were lined on the inside with supports for benches, whereas the seating accommodations for troops were stored in sheds at the railroad station. Soviet railroad officials said that such empty boxcars were side-tracked at many railroad stations in the Memel River region and in Lithuania, but allegedly not in East Prussia.

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- * Comment. According to previous reports [REDACTED] components of the 28th Tank Div are probably stationed in Tilsit. According to previous records, the Tilsit military post has four barracks installations, one east of the railroad station which quarters a tank unit, and the other three west of the railroad station, with the Neue Kaserne probably quartering an infantry unit, the barracks installation farther to the east probably quartering a tank unit, and the [REDACTED] north probably quartering an artillery unit.

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